

MICHIGAN—INHABITANTS OF MONROE COUNTY.

REMONSTRANCE

OF

CITIZENS OF THE TOWNSHIP OF WHITEFORD,

*On the disputed tract, against the bill reported in the House of Representatives giving that tract to the State of Ohio.*

APRIL 1, 1836.

Read, and laid upon the table.

*To the honorable the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled:*

Your memorialists, inhabitants of the township of Whiteford, and its vicinity, in the county of Monroe, and State of Michigan, would

RESPECTFULLY REPRESENT:

That we have seen, with deep concern, the copy of a bill reported by the Judiciary Committee in the House of Representatives, proposing to dismember Michigan, so as to set the most of your memorialists to the State of Ohio, and, as an equivalent, to annex to Michigan part of the Wisconsin Territory.

Your memorialists believe that when Congress bounded Michigan, by the act of January, 1805, and gave her the right of admission into the Union, on having sixty thousand population; that honorable body as completely and positively made Michigan a State, on the happening of that contingency, as it then was or is now in the power of Congress to do; and that act, once becoming a law, was, in the nature of things, irrevocable; and that, from and after that period, any alteration of the bounds of Michigan could only be effected under the provisions of the third section of the fourth article of the constitution of the United States; but if the disposition, by your honorable body, of the memorial of the Legislature of Michigan be correct, an assent of that body to any alteration of the bounds of Michigan can have no binding force upon the inhabitants, more than the assent of any other individuals of equal numbers.

Your memorialists believe that in matters of minor consequence and of short duration, private or sectional interest should give way to the gen-

eral good; but such questions as changing bounds of States, or altering forms of government, are of too grave a character to be sacrificed to promote the views or interests of any political party.

The proposed alteration would be robbing the poor and feeble to aggrandize the rich and powerful, (to which doctrine your memorialists cannot subscribe,) for the State of Ohio, with its million of freemen, is large in territory and rich in resources; while Michigan has a population of but little more than one hundred thousand, with one-half her territory sterile and comparatively worthless.

Your memorialists would further represent, that they removed from other sections of the United States to this section of country, not as belonging to Ohio, but to Michigan; in this belief they were supported by the fact that in purchasing their lands of the United States, they bought them at offices established by the General Government, within the bounds of Michigan, the sales at which extended to a line drawn east from the southern extreme of Lake Michigan to Lake Erie. The lands south of that line were sold at offices established in Ohio.

The bounds of Michigan having been established by the act of Congress of January, 1805, and those bounds recognised in the sale of the public lands, your memorialists believe that the good faith of the nation ought to be maintained, and that neither the purchasers of the public lands here, or the State of Michigan generally, should suffer by any act of Congress, merely as matter of expediency.

In common with citizens of other States, your memorialists claim to be citizens of the United States, and entitled to the protection of Congress, as such, in their property as well as their persons. They have (as was their duty to do) lived in strict obedience to the laws of the Territory and of the United States, and would be among the last to consent to a violation of the laws of their country, or to any innovations upon our institutions. They have accepted the constitution framed by their delegates in convention, and have delegated no power to alter it, or to curtail the bounds of Michigan; nor are they willing to sell their birthright for a mess of pottage on the frozen and sterile shores of Lake Superior, which are not naturally connected with Michigan, and could be of no use to her as part of her State.

Your memorialists would also represent, that at this place a very pleasant and prosperous town is arising out of the wilderness, by the industry and perseverance of its inhabitants, situated eight miles north of Fulton's line, run by order of the President of the United States as the boundary between Ohio and Michigan, and but half a mile south of the line proposed to be made the boundary between those States; and, in case of the alteration, this place will forever remain upon the extreme of the township, county, and State, without any possible alteration. Not only the town, but the farming interest about it, would be seriously injured by such an alteration, inasmuch as many farms and neighborhoods would be intersected and divided, one part being placed under the jurisdiction of one State, and the other part under the other State; and a portion of your memorialists would be placed under the jurisdiction of those unfriendly to their interests, and under whose banner they never enlisted.

Under such a state of things it is impossible to estimate the evils such a change in location and connection would bring upon us. We cannot indulge the belief that your honorable body will be willing thus to sacrifice

their interest, and place them in the helpless state of the frogs in the fable. Giving your memorialists into the power of their enemies, it may be "sport for them, but will be death to us." We, therefore, call loudly on Congress to do us justice.

And your petitioners, as in duty bound, will ever pray.

*Signed by 108 Citizens*

*Whiteford, March 18, 1836.*

their interest, and place them in the highest state of the frog in the field. Giving them no more than the power of their own mind, it may be said to them, but will be worth to us. We therefore call to the Congress to do its duty.

And your resolution, as it is found, will ever stay.

Signed by J. H. Clifford

Witnessed March 18 1855